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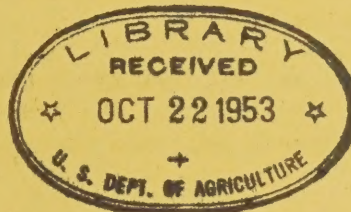
A RURAL COMMUNITY IN WARTIME  
Roby, Texas

*sep?*

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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Summary	1
The Roby Community	6
Settlement and growth	6
Transportation and communication	8
Population	10
Changes and Adjustments During Wartime	12
Restrictions and outside demands	12
Migration	12
Farm labor	15
Neighborliness	16
Strictly wartime programs	18
Schools	23
Churches	27
Other community organizations and activities	29
Centers for major services	31
Method Used in Study	33



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The counties in Massachusetts; Oneida, Texas; Dent, Missouri; Seward, Nebraska; and Idaho. Each of these were -- Hampshire, Arkansas; Fisher, Minnesota; Jasper, Illinois; Idaho. Each of these is one of the 71 laboratory counties selected for continued intensive study by the Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The communities are all village centered. Each is believed to be fairly typical of communities in the broad area which each county represents. The analysis included the entire community area, both farm and village.

Carl C. Taylor

Acknowledgment

Citizens of the Roby community cooperated throughout the study, volunteering historical and background material.

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## INTRODUCTION

War has brought change to the Roby community--change in population and in ways of living. At the call of war, men and boys volunteered and were drafted for service in the armed forces, workers departed for centers of war industry, and a few wives with their children went to the homes of their parents. Shortages of labor and farm equipment, rationing, and the need for increased production required a fuller use of available labor, machinery, and land. Emotional strains and stresses brought tension. Some family ties were broken. Without much warning, a people established and nurtured in the principles of individual initiative and enterprise found themselves responding to outside controls and demands. Selective Service, the Office of Price Administration, and the Rationing Board developed their wartime restrictions. Outside demands for funds and services to meet the increasing and insistent needs of war brought further restrictions on individuals and local groups, and called for other changes.

In response to the call from the world at large, the Roby community not only contributed manpower and farm products, but contacts with the outside world took on new meaning. In a year or so boys from Roby were scattered throughout the world--some in battlefields, others in enemy prison camps, and a few in cross-marked graves on foreign soil. Places formerly known only as dots on the map came to be of supreme importance to certain families in the Roby community. Almost overnight the world appeared to shrink, as faraway places seemed more real than before.

Wartime changes in family life and neighborhood activities have been pronounced. Families with sons, daughters, relatives, and friends in the armed forces have become more interested in their neighbors who are living under the same conditions. In many ways, the life moves on about as usual. Cows have to be milked and meals prepared, but a farmer will make an extra call on a neighbor to get the latest news from the son who is overseas and to give the latest news from his own boy. Letters and cablegrams from overseas have led people to some international consciousness but their appreciation of values to be found in the rural family and the rural neighborhood apparently has been somewhat deepened.

## SUMMARY

(1) The boundary of a village-centered community in the plains is not only more flexible, but is determined by factors somewhat different from those which determine the boundary of a corresponding community in the hills. In the hill country, rivers, ridges, and valleys often outline service areas and shape communities. In the plains, topography offers few barriers to travel and so is relatively unimportant in shaping community boundaries. Plains communities are determined largely on the



basis of service areas, maintained mostly by the extent and quality of services offered at the village center, and by a sense of belonging on the part of residents.

A rural community in the plains, in contrast to most communities in country of rough topography, does not necessarily contain a cluster of neighborhoods. The Roby community includes all of three and parts of six neighborhoods.

In reality, this community is not a geographic or a social and economic unit in the sense that a number of neighborhoods add up to a community. It is actually a series of functional service areas for trade, school, church, banking, political administration, and other activities. The boundaries of few, if any, of these areas coincide, and the participants in many instances are different people. But Roby is the village center for the different activities.

The county seat is the service center for county business, the Extension Service, and other Federal agencies. It is likewise the center for temporary war agencies, and in many cases for the Red Cross and other outside organizations that operate programs within the county. In relation to these services, Fisher County is the community, while Roby, the county seat town, is the community center. The residents of Fisher County look to the county seat as the center through which their needs pertaining to many of these services are met. Their loyalties as citizens are to the county and to the county seat. Neighborhoods of the county-community are chiefly composed of the 75 early school districts of the county. In the earlier years the services of the neighborhood were probably school, church, and store--generally speaking. Essential services not available in the neighborhood were sought elsewhere, but not necessarily in the nearest larger center. With the development of improved methods of transportation, modern highways, and the growth of trading centers, distance became decreasingly important in determining service areas--especially with respect to trade, recreation, and education.

(2) Most people in the community are farmers or have work that is related to agriculture. Cotton is the principal source of income, and beef cattle come next. As there are no industries in the community, the gainfully employed in the village are found mostly in stores, filling stations, and schools; in Federal, State, and county offices; or in other jobs that provide the usual services in a village-centered rural community.

(3) Population is predominantly native-white, estimated at 2,200 in 1944 compared with 2,700 in 1940, a reduction of 18.5 percent. The reduction resulted mainly from outward migration from rural areas, for the village population of 904 in 1940 remained about constant. Some wives, whose husbands were in the armed forces, went to live with parents for the duration. Proportionately more people left the community for the armed forces or for war jobs than for any other reason. Both families



and individuals moved from the community. The proportion of males in the 20 to 29 age group was reduced drastically, and the proportion in the 30 to 39 age group considerably, between 1940 and 1944. Hence, during the war period Roby has tended toward becoming a community of old folks and young people, especially with respect to the male population. The average size of family has been reduced from a mean of 4.2 in 1940 to a mean of 3.8 in 1944. These changes have reduced family labor supply sharply at a time when the country was calling on farmers for greater production than ever.

(4) The availability and status of hired labor has changed considerably. Before the war, farm owners were in a strong bargaining position with tenants and laborers. But war reversed the situation, putting tenants and laborers in the better bargaining position. Cotton picking in the community is generally done by migrant Mexican workers, but in 1942 many Mexican cotton-picking crews passed through Roby without stopping, going to the High Plains where picking was easier and prices were higher. Since early fall 1942, farmers have raised prices for picking and have made other concessions to tenants and laborers, have worked early and late themselves, have used machinery more efficiently, and have exchanged labor considerably.

(5) People in this community love the land, and they like to have a tract they can call their own. The people take pride in good cattle and in smooth-operating farm machinery. The Bible, as they see it, is accepted as a code of conduct. Parents generally have an ardent wish to see their children through high school and, in many cases, through college. Politics are taken seriously. The war has strengthened these customs.

(6) Neighbors are more interested in one another as a result of conditions growing out of the war. Having relatives and friends in the armed forces and distant war plants creates a common bond among families. Regular visiting has decreased, but through "pop calls", chance meetings in town or elsewhere, neighbors keep in more constant touch with one another than they did before.

There is much informal sociability. Groups congregate at the post office, drug store, courthouse square, street corners, barber shops, and filling stations. These gatherings serve as clearing houses for news and opinions, and thus loom large in the moulding of public opinion.

(7) Leadership in the Roby community is rather conservative, with some exceptions, and appears always to have been. Older people from "old families" have taken a dominant part in all organizations and movements. But during this war younger men--some of them newcomers--have taken the lead in some activities. Apparently the community is selecting leaders who can get jobs done in wartime regardless of the part their forefathers played in settling the county.



(8) Beginning with the threat of war and increasing sharply after Pearl Harbor, outside controls, requests, and demands were extended to this community through such agencies as Selective Service, Office of Price Administration, Civilian Defense, and Red Cross. For voluntary programs, former haphazard methods of organization were replaced by a rather complete organization on a community and neighborhood basis. Thus, for all wartime drives, such as War Bond campaigns and Red Cross roll calls, rather thorough coverage is obtained through neighborhood committees. Community leaders are agreed that organization contributes not only to the effectiveness of, but to the ease of conducting, community-wide programs.

(9) The consolidated school in Roby is the only school in the community for white children. In 1943-44 it had 19 teachers and 475 students--315 were from the open country and 160 from the village. Vocational courses include agriculture, home economics, and business. Chief among school activities are athletics, band, orchestra, chorus club, Future Farmers of America, and Future Homemakers.

A one-room, one-teacher school offering work through the eighth grade, with an enrollment of 10 pupils during the 1943-44 session, is conducted in the Negro church at Roby. Most of the 10 Negro families in the community are concentrated in this village; there is no bus service for those who live in the country. Hereafter, summary statements pertaining to schools will refer to the white school only.

Enrollment in the Roby consolidated school was reduced by 15.9 percent during the 1943-44 session compared with the 1940-41 session, a reduction of 16.7 percent in high school and 14.6 percent in the elementary grades. The teaching staff was reduced from 22 to 19, with qualified teachers difficult to obtain and hold. Enrollment in the small Negro school was reduced 33.3 percent between 1940-41 and 1943-44. Thus, outward migration from the community during recent years is reflected in reduced school enrollment.

During the war, courses have been provided for out-of-school youth and adults. Most popular of these have been courses in farm machinery for men and those in the planning, production, conservation, and preservation of food for women.

All open-country schools in the community have been closed during recent years. The majority of children now attend school in the village but in some cases consolidation has not contributed toward making Roby a more closely knitted community. Under school laws in Texas, when a school is closed in a local district the district may exercise one of the following choices: Consolidate and assume full burden of taxation, which often means an increase in taxes; transfer all children and funds to a specified school; or permit families to send children to the school of their choice, and prorate school money accordingly. All of these choices have been exercised in the Roby community. Six of the nine



component neighborhoods have children attending two or more schools. Hence, as children in what is generally considered the Roby community attend schools in other communities, the solidarity of the Roby community is weakened to that extent. All told, however, Roby is a stronger, and not a weaker, community center as a result of consolidation.

Before the consolidation movement a country school was evidently a strong unifying force for the rural neighborhood. When a local school was closed, however, many neighborhood activities centering around the school moved to the new school center or were discontinued. Hence in terms of neighborhood and community solidarity, and not in terms of educational opportunity, the consolidation serves as a disintegrating factor in rural neighborhoods where schools are abolished, but as a powerful integrating factor in the larger rural community provided the consolidated school is located at the center where most other community services are obtained.

(10) In 1943 there were eight churches, all Protestant, in the Roby community. One country church disbanded late in the year for lack of support, partly because of outward migration. The village is the church center of the community with 80.6 percent of all members belonging to one or the other of the three village churches. Baptists predominate, with 63.3 percent of all members belonging to one or the other of their churches. Country churches, weak as they are, are the strongest focal points for holding neighborhoods together since the country schools were closed.

Church records in the community are exceedingly incomplete. It is difficult to make comparisons between 1943 and 1940 in terms of church programs and activities. Membership in 1943 was 4.9 percent less than in 1940, a reduction of 17.1 percent for rural and 1.4 percent for village churches. Out of a loss of 46 members by all churches, 44 members were rural residents. This reflects outward migration somewhat, although people are not likely to move their church membership immediately when they leave.

Attendance at services and Sunday School remained near prewar figures. Financial support increased slightly. The absence of the young men and young women from church programs has been keenly felt. Some young people's societies have disbanded for the duration.

(11) The few local organizations in the community have largely reshaped their objectives and programs in terms of wartime demands. Then, too, war has added vitality to such organizations as the Lions Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club, but the Lions Club--the only men's civic organization in the community--had 29 percent fewer members in the spring of 1944 than in 1940, chiefly because of migration.



(12) Wartime shortages of tires, gasoline, and other items have not caused the people in the community to shift centers for major services. Most families still obtain medical care and buy groceries and feed at the village, although they buy clothing, hardware, and machinery at other centers.

### THE ROBY COMMUNITY

To understand the Roby community it is well to have a general knowledge of Fisher County, for the community has followed rather closely the lines of settlement and development of the county.

Fisher County (fig. 1) is located on the plains of west-central Texas about 200 miles west of Fort Worth. The county is level to rolling and rolling to rough with about 60 percent of the soil sandy loam. The altitude ranges from approximately 1,900 feet to over 2,100 feet. Average annual rainfall varies from 20 to 22 inches. Roughly, the land is divided into two types-of-farming areas--the ranch lands comprising about 44 percent, and the general farming area comprising about 56 percent of the total acreage. To a large extent the ranch lands are on the outer fringes of the county while general farming prevails in the center.

The location of the county on the Rolling Plains, east of the High Plains and within the area covered by the 100th Meridian, subjects it to the influence of the Great Plains environment. This necessitated ways of farming and living unlike those to which some of the people had been accustomed in that country which lies east of the 98th Meridian where both timber and water were plentiful. A country barren of timber and deficient in rainfall demanded new techniques of development and radical adjustments in ways of living. Conservation of soil and water became supremely important in the struggle for a living.

### Settlement and Growth

The Roby community was settled mainly by families of American stock from other Texas communities who wanted to establish homes in the newly opened territory. Some were interested in livestock and others in general farming. The pattern of farming in the Roby community, therefore, was established on the basis of cotton, livestock, and small grains, such as milo maize.

First steps toward the establishment of the village of Roby were made late in 1885. Roby, with a population of 904 according to the 1940 census, is now an incorporated town with a mayor, council, and police department. Offices are located in a business building that answers the purpose of a city hall. Despite its central location in the good farming area of the county (fig. 1), its early settlement, its selection as county seat, and



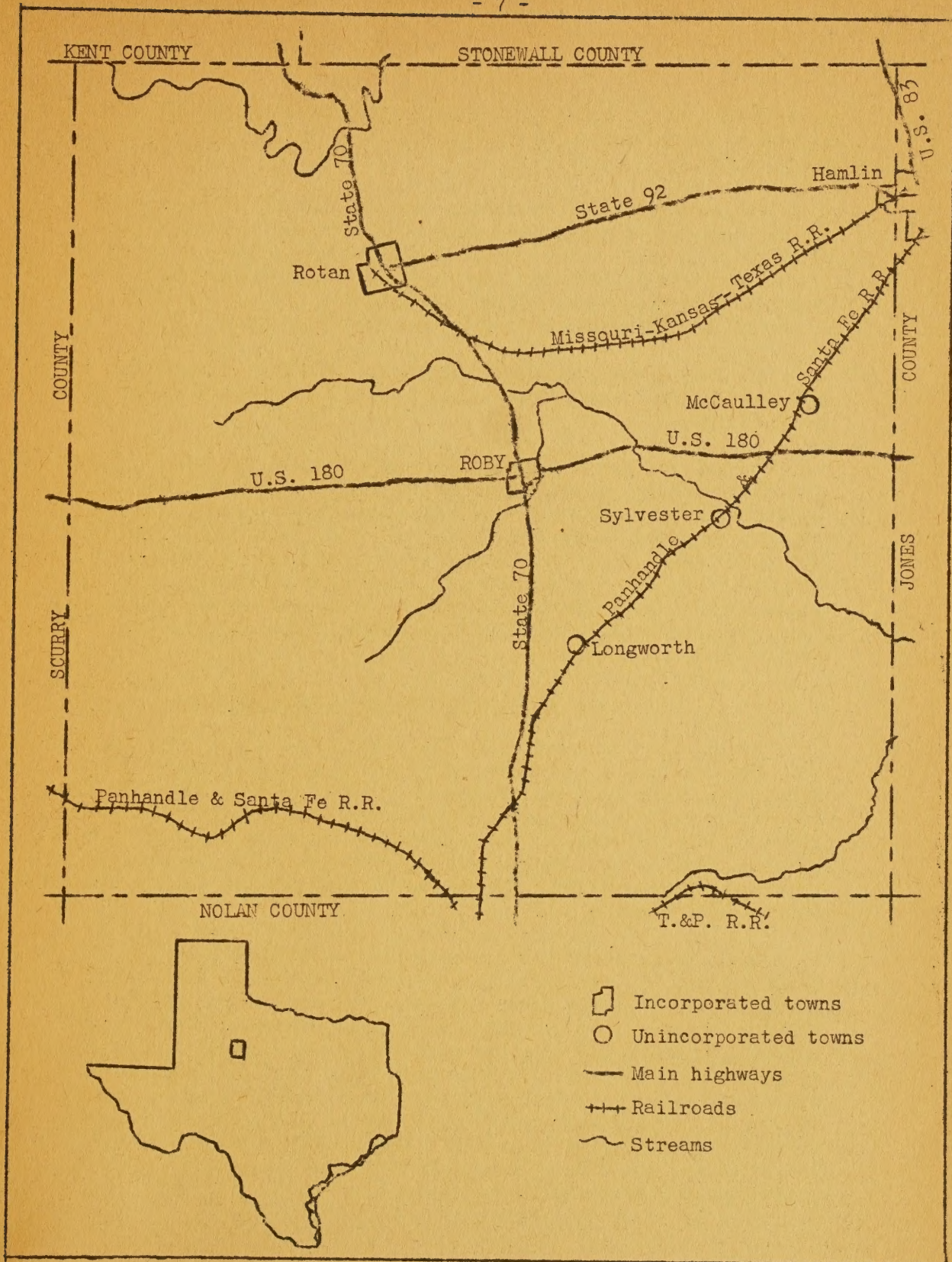


Fig. 1 - FISHER COUNTY, TEXAS



its more recent selection as county center for Federal agricultural agencies and temporary war-related activities, Roby has remained a small village.

It performs a dual function. One is that of community center, providing adjacent neighborhoods with such services as trade, banking, recreation, schools, and churches. The other is that of county seat and center of State and Federal agencies--including wartime agencies--and charitable organizations operating in Fisher County. Some 13 prewar and 6 wartime agencies were active in the spring of 1944.

The Roby community comprises an area of about 12 miles east and west and 10 miles north and south and is located approximately in the center of the county.

In some respects the community sprawls over the entire county but nine open-country neighborhoods tying fully or in part with the village center form the nucleus of the Roby community (fig. 2). These include Royston, Pledger, Longworth, Busby, El Paso, Barronview, Center, Sardis, and North Roby. Only three--Center, El Paso, and Pledger--have their entire area within the boundaries of the Roby community. The other six neighborhoods have divided allegiance. Some residents of each consider Roby their community center, whereas others seek services in and express loyalties to other centers.

#### Transportation and Communication

For a number of years Roby was served by a short spur track branching off from the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad at North Roby, four miles away. The spur was abandoned in 1941, leaving Roby without a railroad. Through the years Roby has been under constant competitive pressure from Sweetwater, Rotan, Hamlin, and other centers that have railroad facilities. During the era previous to the building of modern highways, therefore, Roby was unable to hold its own in competition with these nearby centers.

With the construction of two improved highways through the county, State Highway 70, north and south, and U. S. Highway 180, east and west, which intersect at the center of Roby, transportation facilities were greatly improved, but the difficulty of maintaining its position in competition with other centers increased even further. People in Roby could travel with ease to the younger towns of Rotan, Hamlin, and Rosco, and to the older city of Sweetwater, where more adequate services were available. A good system of farm-to-market roads affords excellent contact between the village center and the open-country areas. Some of the roads are not all-weather, but there are only a few days in the year when they are impassable.



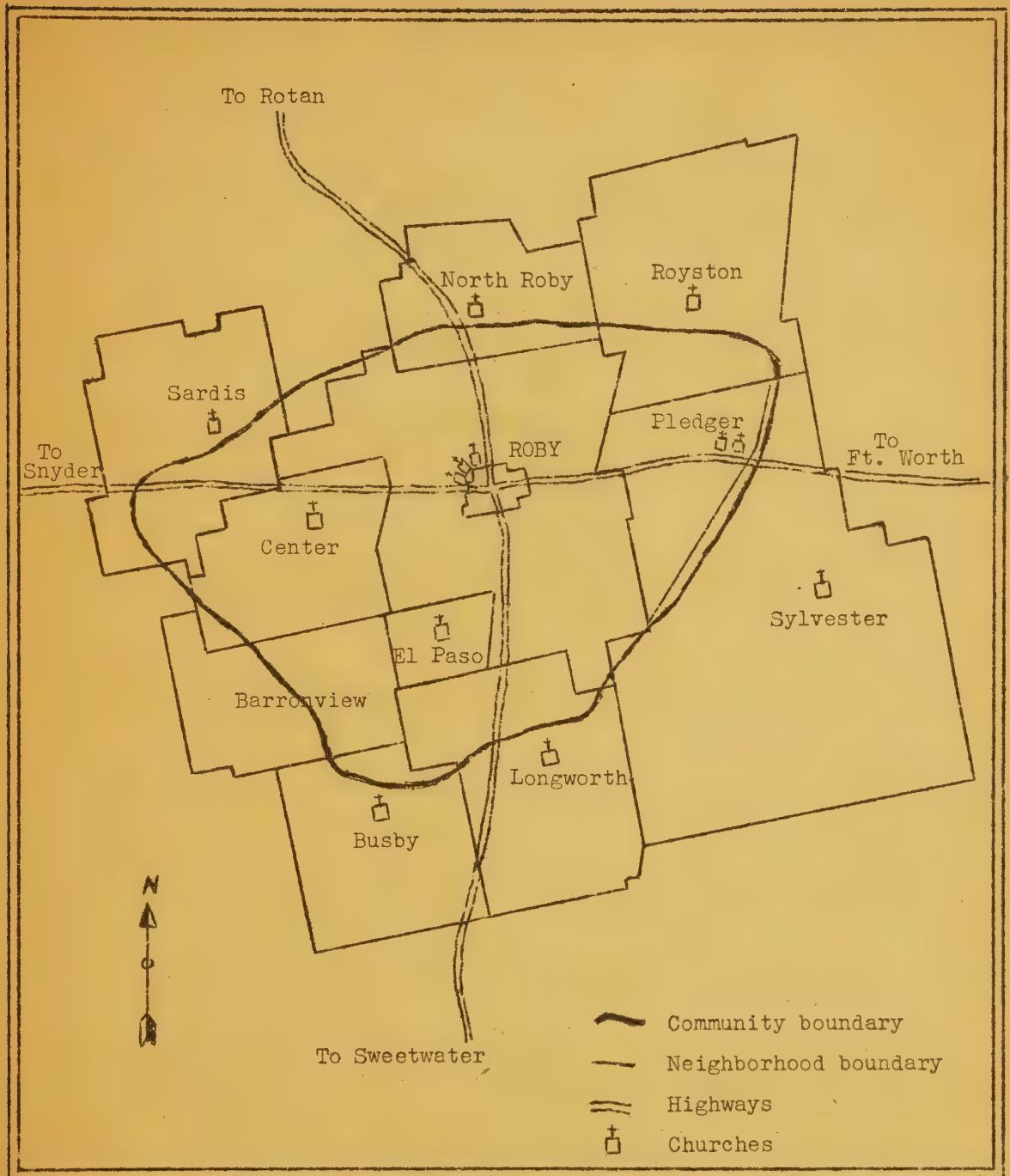


Figure 2 - The Roby, Texas, community proper, with neighborhoods falling wholly or in part within the community.



Population

Roby has grown only slightly during recent years. Population of the village in 1940 was 904, compared with 801 in 1930. It is estimated that population of the Roby community in the spring of 1944 was about 2,200, approximately 900 in the village and 1,300 in the open country. Most people in the community, as throughout the county, are native white.

That people in the community are conservative becomes obvious quickly as one talks with local citizens. For example, one member of a pioneer family in the community stated:

"Roby has had a gradual growth and while the local citizens have been proud of their community, they have not been particularly interested in its progress. From the beginning, Roby has always been a somewhat non-progressive village."

As it is a relatively young community, Roby still feels the influence of pioneer families. Many residents have lived in the community since pioneer days, some in their present location for 30 or 40 years (table 1).

Table 1.- Percentage of 58 sample families in Roby Community, Texas, who have lived in Fisher County, Roby Community, and their present neighborhood a specified number of years

Years' residence	Fisher County Percent	Roby community Percent	Present neighborhood Percent
Less than 1	1.7	1.7	1.7
1 to 4	5.2	12.1	19.0
5 to 14	17.3	27.6	27.6
15 to 24	15.5	8.6	10.3
25 to 34	25.9	20.7	20.7
35 to 44	24.1	24.1	19.0
45 years or more	10.3	5.2	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Farm families in the community do not move from one farm to another to any large extent (table 2). Some of the open-country families have lived in the community during their entire lifetime. Although approximately 50 percent of the farms in Fisher County were operated by tenants according to the Census of 1940, many of those in the Roby community have lived on their farms for many years.



Table 2.- Percentage of 58 sample families in Roby Community making specified number of moves during past 10 years

Number moves	:	Percent of families
None	:	41.4
1	:	15.5
2	:	10.3
3	:	15.5
4	:	12.1
5	:	0.0
6 or more	:	5.2
Total	:	100.0

A large proportion of residents in the village own their homes. The small Negro segment in the village of Roby, like the white population, is relatively stable.

Transient workers, mostly Mexicans, who pick cotton during September and October, live in tourist cabins and farm outbuildings, or camp in or near their trucks or cars.

A large majority of families in the community lived either in Fisher County or in another Texas county before they moved to their present location; thus, they are not newcomers to Texas (table 3).

Table 3.- Place of residence of 58 sample families in Roby Community, Texas, before moving to present location

Place of residence	:	Percent of families
Within county	:	39.7
Outside county in same state	:	53.4
Outside county in different state	:	1.7
Not ascertainable	:	5.2
Total	:	100.0



## CHANGES AND ADJUSTMENTS DURING WARTIME

Roby community made definite adjustments to meet its wartime responsibility. Local interest in the war, outside demands for assistance, and outside influence on local affairs brought change of emphasis--sharper in some instances than in others. Perhaps the main adjustments have come in family and locality groups, and the least in programs of the church and Masonic organizations.

### Outside Restrictions and Demands

Outside restrictions extending to activities in the Roby community emphasized the urgency of the war. As early as 1940, Selective Service took charge of manpower available for the armed forces, then in 1942 Federal agencies gave attention to the movement of labor, the Rationing Board limited use and purchase of certain facilities and materials, and the Office of Price Administration established a system of price controls for some of the supplies bought and products sold. As various wartime measures were used during 1942 a community deeply indoctrinated with the idea of "free enterprise" found itself regimented along several lines.

Other wartime programs made it necessary to mobilize and organize the resources of the community rather quickly. The local chapter of the Red Cross, for example, enlarged its organization and increased its demands, organizations and committees were established for the sale of War Bonds and the collection of scrap, and established local organizations assumed additional responsibility with respect to the war.

### Migration

One of the first things that brought home to the people of Roby the seriousness of war conditions was the migration toward outside calls for manpower. Some men volunteered and others were drafted for service in the armed forces, workers left for jobs in war plants, and a few wives with their children went back to their parents. Such shifts were reflected in the age and sex composition of the population in 1944 compared with 1940 (fig. 3).

On April 1, 1940, the population of Fisher County was 12,932; by March 1, 1943, the estimated population had dropped to 10,548, a reduction of 2,384 or 18.4 percent. 1/ A conservative estimate places the number that left the Roby community during the period at 500. Many entire families moved out; in other cases only certain members of the family left. The 58 families sampled in 1944 contained 242 persons in

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1/ Bureau of the Census, Estimates of the Civilian Population of the United States, By Counties: March 1, 1943, Series P-3, No. 38, October 31, 1943.



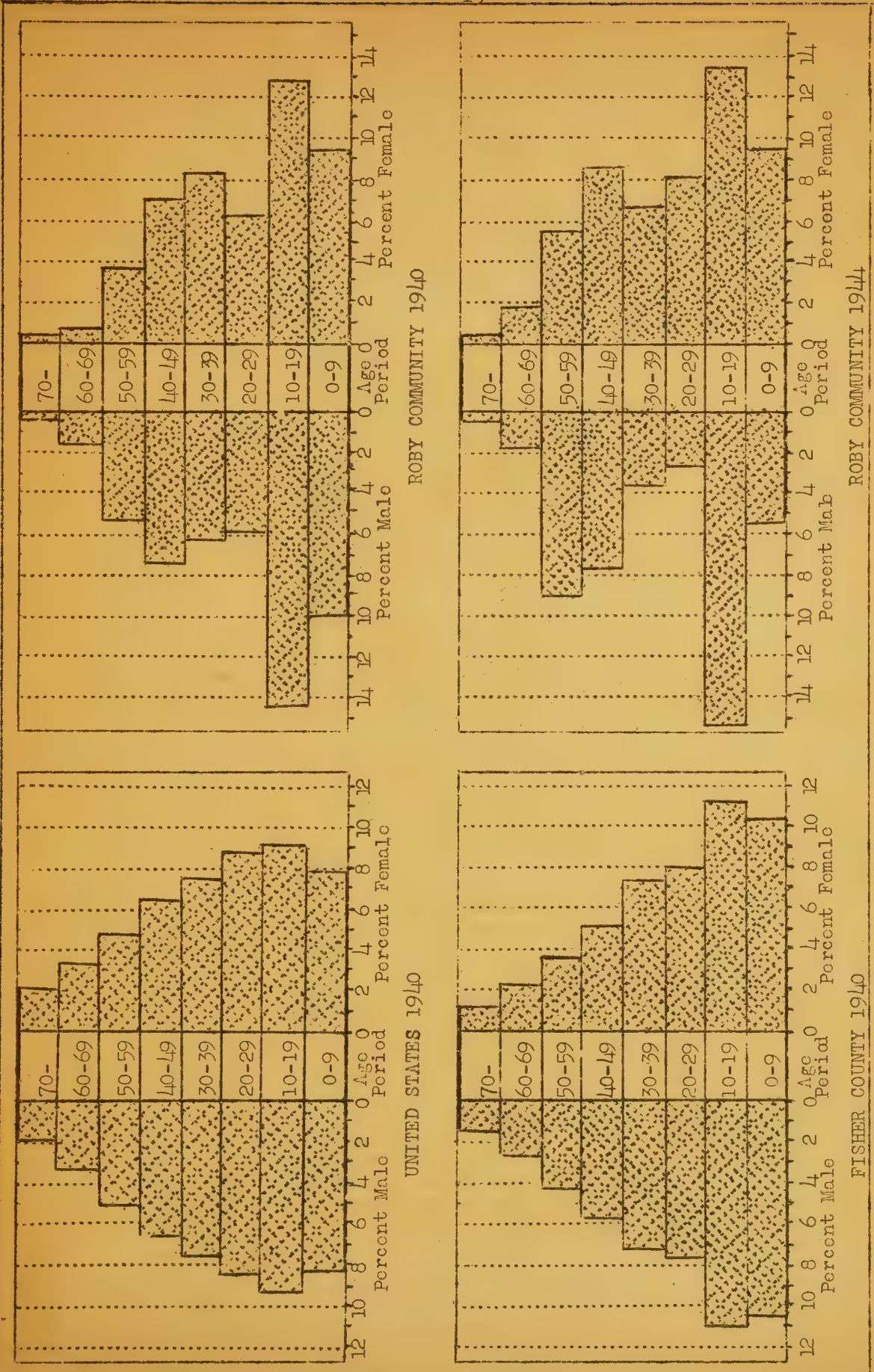


Figure 3 - Age and sex pyramids, United States 1940, Fisher County, Texas, 1940, Roby Community, Texas, 1940, and Roby Community 1944.



1940 (table 4). By spring of 1944, 27 of these individuals, about 11 percent, had left the county for the armed forces or for war plants. Considering births, deaths, and migration, there was a reduction of 20 persons, 8.3 percent, from 1940 to 1944 in the number of people included in sample families. This, of course, takes no account of outward migration of entire families. In 1940 the 58 sample families averaged 4.2 persons, while in 1944 they averaged 3.8 persons.

Table 4.- Number of persons, number and percentage of families, by specified number in family, in 58 sample families in Roby Community, Texas, 1940 and 1944

Number in family	1940			1944		
	Number	Families		Number	Families	
	persons	Number	Percent	persons	Number	Percent
1 - 2	18	9	15.5	29	15	25.9
3	48	16	27.6	36	12	20.7
4	60	15	25.9	64	16	27.6
5 - 6	66	12	20.7	59	11	18.9
7 - 11	50	6	10.3	34	4	6.9
Total	242	58	100.0	222	58	100.0
Mean number in family	4.2			3.8		

From 1940 to the close of the year 1943, 24 members of the sample families in Roby community went into the armed forces. The rate of induction was somewhat higher in 1940 than in either 1941 or 1942, but during 1943, sample families contributed as many persons to the service as during the previous 3 years combined.

Those entering the service were from 17 to 28 years of age at the time of induction. Three-fourths of them were 21 years of age or younger.

Outward wartime migration since 1940 has naturally reduced the proportion of the male population in the age group 20 to 39 years, inclusive (fig. 3). In contrast, the proportion of the female population in the age group 20 to 29 years was greater in 1944 than in 1940, partly because young wives of men in the services returned to the homes of their parents for the duration.

Even before the war the proportion of men in the age group 20 to 39 years, inclusive, was lower for the Roby community than for Fisher County or for the United States (fig. 3). This, no doubt, was an indication of limited chances to find work in the community. Young men usually went elsewhere for work by the time they wanted to settle down to rear a family.



### Farm Labor

Until recent years Roby community had a surplus of farm workers, both tenants and laborers. During the prewar period, farm operators had sufficient labor at their beck and call. They could dominate most of the landlord-tenant relations. They set dates at which time land would be rented for the crop year. Tenants were required to have adequate farm equipment for farming the land. The chasm was widening between the farm owner-operators and those who were without land or without an established local position. There was a feeling of uncertainty among tenants who looked for land to farm and among laborers who wanted farm work, and a feeling of security on the part of farm owner. The situation was intensified by mechanization and diversification of farming which made great strides during the immediate prewar period.

With mechanization and reorganization of farming along less specialized lines there was increasingly less demand for labor, while during the depression years of the 1930's, for example, the labor supply remained constant or may even have increased.

But war made farm labor less plentiful. Quickly after Pearl Harbor people began to leave the community. A scarcity of labor developed in a community that had been accustomed to an overabundance of workers. Farmers and their families had to do more of the farm work and to use their equipment more effectively. As late as the fall of 1942, however, the farmers did not fully realize the extent of the demand for labor outside. The farm placement field representative of the United States Employment Service had routed some 12 or 15 migrant Mexican cotton-picking crews to Roby. The price in former years had been \$1 per 100 pounds for picking, the new price was \$1.10. The farmers refused to pay the additional 10 cents per 100 pounds and the Mexicans left the community after a public meeting of farmers and community leaders at which demands were made that the representative of the Employment Service force the Mexicans to pick cotton at the former price.

Later, operators began to offer inducement in the form of higher wages and improvements in living conditions. This change was markedly noticeable in relations between employers and migrant laborers during the cotton-picking season of 1943 when Mexican crews drove through the community without stopping to look for jobs. There were enough Mexican laborers on the highway to pick the cotton, but they were headed toward the High Plains where the crop was better and the wages for picking were higher. They were no longer uncertain about finding jobs. Only by special efforts of the citizens of the Roby community were enough migrant laborers induced to stop and pick in the community. Although the war has changed many relationships between employers and farm laborers, the class lines remain.



It has been customary to draw rather a sharp line between old and new families here and in addition there are other status groups; for example, employers, regular employees, and seasonal employees, farm owners, farm tenants, regular farm laborers, and seasonal farm workers. These seasonal farm workers, who pick most of the cotton, are mostly of Mexican descent, with a few Negroes.

There is a minimum of social cleavage between farm owners and tenants but there is a wide hiatus between operators and farm laborers as well as between local farm laborers and migrants.

Exchange of labor was most prevalent among owners, 64.8 percent of whom exchanged labor in 1940 and 70.5 percent in 1943. During that period there was a decrease in exchange of labor on the part of owners with tenants from 35.4 to 29.4 percent, according to their statements.

The greatest increase in lending and borrowing of farming tools and machinery in 1943, compared with 1940, was within the tenant-operator group. The percentage of lending and borrowing within the tenant group in 1940 was 34.1 and in 1943, 51.6 percent. The percentage of lending and borrowing among owners was 71.1 in 1940 and 76.5 in 1943.

#### Neighborliness

When sons and daughters left for the war or for war industries, neighbors became more interested in neighbors. They were eager for the latest news from those who had left. New sympathies were developed and there was at least a tendency to ignore many of the class lines. An owner with a son in the southwest Pacific war zone and a tenant with a son in a Japanese prison camp had a common interest. A farmer with three sons and a daughter with the armed forces stated the case in simple terms:

"Our lives move on about as usual. We work a little harder, exchange a little more work, and visit a little more. Our visiting habits have changed a bit, though. We call on neighbors more frequently to get the latest news from the front, but we don't make real visits. We get the news and drive on unless there is real trouble in the home. Then we try to help. A neighbor--not a particularly close friend--lost a son in battle. We have exchanged a number of visits and our families have become good friends."

Rationing of tires and gasoline has had considerable bearing upon visiting habits of the farm families. One said:

"It is now our custom for three families to use one car where formerly we used three. We visit mutual friends of the three families, usually with some war work as the object of the visit. In the main, we meet many of our friends at church and town and make few special trips to visit them. An A-card does not permit much visiting."



Owners and tenants alike said they visited less, in terms of what they consider real visits, during 1943 than during 1940, but through "stopping by" or chance meetings in town or elsewhere, neighbors were in more constant touch with one another than before the war.

Real visiting across tenure lines was about the same for 1940 and 1943 (table 5). More than one-half the owners and more than one-half the tenants visit both owners and tenants. One-third of owner families stay within their tenure class by visiting owners only, whereas no tenant families visit tenants only.

Although no owner family visits tenants only, about 3 out of 10 tenant families visit owners only. Hence, in this community owners are more likely to visit families within their tenure status than tenants are.

Table 5.- Visiting pattern in 1940 and 1943 of 47 sample families by tenure, having same tenure status in Roby Community, Texas, both years <sup>1/</sup>

Visiting pattern	Families in 1940		Families in 1943	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Owners visiting:				
Owners only	12	33.3	13	36.1
Tenants only	0	0.0	0	0.0
Owners and tenants	20	55.5	20	55.5
None	2	5.6	1	2.8
No information	2	5.6	2	5.6
Total	36	100.0	36	100.0
Tenants visiting:				
Owners only	3	27.3	3	27.3
Tenants only	0	.0	0	.0
Owners and tenants	7	63.6	7	63.6
None	1	9.1	1	9.1
No information	0	.0	0	.0
Total	11	100.0	11	100.0

<sup>1/</sup> Five families excluded for whom information was incomplete.



Strictly Wartime Programs

A considerable proportion of sample families in the Roby community have taken part in most war-related activities available to them (table 6). The extent by families ranged from a low of 8.6 percent in first-aid classes to a high of 96.6 percent for aid in metal salvage. With two exceptions, the degree of participation in the various activities has changed very little since the movements were started. The percentage of families buying War Bonds and stamps during 1943 was greater than when defense bonds and stamps were first on sale. Most families had relatives in the armed services by 1943, and had more money for investment.

Table 6.- Percentage of participation in war-related activities by 58 sample families in Roby Community, Texas, during 1943, and 1943 participation compared with that when activity first began

Activity	Families : 1943 participation compared : partici- : with that when activity began : pating : More : Same : Less			
	: Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Red Cross surgical dressing meetings	: 31.0	0.0	96.6	3.4
First-aid classes	: 8.6	3.4	91.4	5.2
Farmers' meetings relative to production goals, rationing, etc.	: 58.6	5.2	63.8	31.0
Victory gardens, canning, home storage	: 65.5	3.4	91.4	5.2
Aluminum drive	: 87.9	.0	98.3	1.7
Rubber salvage	: 94.8	.0	98.3	1.7
Metal salvage	: 96.6	.0	98.3	1.7
Fats salvage	: 12.1	5.2	94.8	.0
Purchase of war bonds and stamps	: 94.8	43.1	55.2	1.7
War chest	: 65.5	3.4	96.6	.0
Red Cross fund drive	: 67.2	1.7	98.3	.0
Infantile paralysis fund drive	: 43.1	5.2	94.8	.0

While 43 percent of the sample families increased their purchase of War Bonds and stamps, 31 percent reported less participation in farmers' meetings relative to production goals, rationing, etc. (table 6). This decrease did not necessarily reflect any weakening of interest in these activities. When wartime programs were first announced, farmers could understand them better by hearing the programs fully discussed at meetings, but once a program was thoroughly understood, with gasoline and tire rationing considered, farm people depended more upon the radio, newspapers, and their neighbors for information regarding any changes. The majority



of families listed the radio as the principal source of information about war programs (table 7). Newspaper and neighbor, in that order, came next. Miscellaneous sources included letters, school teachers, and officials of the Extension Service, FSA, and AAA.

Table 7.- Principal sources of information about war programs as reported by sample families in Roby Community, Texas

Source of information	Families reporting	
	Number	Percent
Radio	32	55.2
Newspaper	21	36.2
Neighbor	16	27.6
Other	33	56.9

Most people in this community can be reached through a combination of radio and newspapers. The radio appears to be the surest medium, since 93 percent of the families reported they listened regularly during 1943, compared with 83 percent who read the newspapers regularly (table 8). Apparently the frequency of reading newspapers and listening to the radio as reported by sample families changed very little between 1940 and 1943. If this be true, the people probably at least listened to the radio more carefully and read newspapers more thoroughly during 1943.

Table 8.- Regularity of reading newspapers and listening to radio during 1943 by sample families in Roby Community, Texas, and frequency of these activities in 1943 compared with 1940

Item	Read newspapers		Listen to radio	
	Percent		Percent	
Frequency:				
Regularly	82.8		93.1	
Irregularly	15.5		1.7	
None	1.7		5.2	
Total	100.0		100.0	
Compared with 1940:				
More	1.7		1.7	
Same	94.9		93.1	
Less	3.4		5.2	
Total	100.0		100.0	



Participation in war-related activities usually takes the form of attendance at meetings, service, donation of money or material, and purchase of War Bonds and stamps. Service might include membership on committees or working at some war task like making Red Cross surgical dressings. Donation was the principal form of participation during 1943 (table 9), together with working in the Red Cross surgical dressing program, and the food production, conservation, and preservation program. The food program led in percentage of families taking part. People in the Roby community normally grow gardens and can and store food, and all this has been stimulated by the war.

Table 9.- Percentage of 58 sample families in Roby Community, Texas, participating in war-related activities in 1943, by type of participation

Activity	Type of participation			
	: Attendance: Service: Donation: Purchase			
	: Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Red Cross surgical dressing meetings	: 17.2	27.6	0.0	0.0
First-aid classes	: 8.6	0.0	.0	.0
Farmers' meetings relative to production goals, rationing, etc.	: 58.6	1.7	.0	.0
Victory gardens, canning, home storage	: 15.5	65.5	.0	.0
Aluminum drive	: 0.0	.0	87.9	.0
Rubber salvage	: .0	.0	94.8	.0
Metal salvage	: .0	.0	96.6	.0
Fats salvage	: .0	.0	12.1	.0
War Bonds and stamps	: .0	1.7	.0	94.8
War chest	: .0	.0	65.5	.0
Red Cross fund drive	: .0	.0	67.2	.0
Infantile paralysis fund drive	: .0	.0	43.1	.0

Organization of War-Related Programs.- As war clouds gathered it became necessary to adjust neighborhood and community organizations to meet the need of temporary war agencies and programs. In prewar days, it had become the custom in Roby for a small committee of interested citizens to solicit funds for drives, as for the Red Cross, from a few public-spirited individuals who were easy to reach. As the responsibilities of the war increased, this somewhat haphazard system was found to be inadequate. It was necessary to get the support for war programs on a community-wide basis, particularly in rural areas. Responsibility was placed on key people to mobilize their neighborhoods. In many cases, this represented the first activity on a neighborhood basis since the local school was abandoned.



When a new responsibility for funds or services is placed on Fisher County, quotas are immediately assigned to the neighborhoods, and it becomes the responsibility of the local neighborhood to see that this quota is met. Neighborhood committees are selected and usually stimulate interest through such gatherings as "pie suppers" and "42" clubs.

As county seat, the village of Roby is the nerve center for all war activities in the county. Hence, wartime drives and campaigns in the Roby community may be understood most readily by considering how they are conducted in the county. For example, a member of the county bond committee explained their organization and told something of their experiences as follows:

"I wish to explain to you our methods of organization and our leader program in connection with the various wartime demands. I have been on the War Bond drive committees since the sale of the bonds began, and have visited every community in the county time and again. Our first meeting was in the Hitson community with a school program as an attraction. Ninety percent of the people were present and the drive went over quickly with many participants. At our first meeting at Hobbs, the largest rural consolidated school district in this entire area, only 12 people were present. The people didn't know what it was all about. We adjourned and called another neighborhood meeting at which a school program was presented. The auditorium was crowded to overflowing and the bond quota was met with wide participation. The neighborhood leaders know everybody in the neighborhood and the county leaders know the community leaders and the majority of local citizens.

"We didn't have much of an organization at the beginning of the war emergency, but we quickly organized the county into 23 communities with committees in each community. At an organizational meeting on a following Sunday afternoon, 21 of the 23 communities were represented and a satisfactory representation has been present at all subsequent meetings.

"Our county organization of communities and neighborhoods to carry on the war programs is important to our county from the standpoint of holding our groups in line with the county programs. Many of our borderline citizens were inclined to buy their bonds or make their contributions to the Red Cross and other agencies at Sweetwater or other places in adjoining counties where they go for trade or for other purposes. This tendency did two things that were not for the good of Fisher County; it left Fisher County with a quota to be met by fewer people, and it tended to shift the interest of our citizens of borderline neighborhoods away from the interests and problems of Fisher County. In other words, the interest and pride in Fisher County was being lessened. We attempted to combat this situation by our organizational set-up.



We divided the county into 23 communities of long standing but whose local organizations had dwindled away in some cases since the local schools were closed by consolidation. We revived these local community organizations and gave each community a quota in the various drives. At first the statement was made, 'Our money will do the war effort just as much good if we buy our bonds and make our contributions in other places', but the local community pride has come to our assistance as the various quotas have been given to the local groups.

"We feel that one of the most important things in this whole war program is to develop a feeling of responsibility on the part of the rank and file of the people and to train in leadership. We may develop some outstanding leaders, but even if we don't, we will have a better citizenship if many people, rather than a few, cooperate to meet the responsibilities of citizenship."

The County Superintendent of Schools, who is vice-chairman of the county Red Cross and chairman of the county infantile paralysis committee, stated:

"There is an awakened feeling of responsibility to Fisher County... The borderline citizens, in particular, are beginning to think in terms of Fisher County quotas. We have added 2 'communities' (neighborhoods) to our original list of 23 at the request of the citizens of the 'communities' who wished to have their own local committees and to receive credit for their group contributions. One of these groups sent in \$68 as their contribution to the Red Cross."

The Roby community has tended to become more closely integrated as a result of this county plan of organization by neighborhoods. As neighborhood leaders report to the village center on wartime activities, closer relationships are bound to develop.

Results of Organization.- Civic leaders believe that one result of this careful organization is reflected in the fact that Fisher County has met its quota in campaigns for sale of War Bonds, collection of scrap, and other drives such as the Red Cross, often ranking first among the counties of the area. A headline frequently seen in newspapers of the area is: "Fisher County Has Done It Again." This marks a decided change from the response of the county to early campaigns and drives for defense.

During the years before the war there were only two or three Red Cross committees in the county and funds were raised on the basis of membership fees of \$1 per member. In 1941, the county quota was \$2,050 with 1,826 participants contributing \$2,061.85. The quota for 1943 was \$4,165 with 2,470 participants contributing \$5,913; for 1944 the quota was \$7,970 with 2,410 participants contributing \$9,702. Hence, the quota was exceeded in 1941 by \$11.85; in 1943, by \$1,748; and in 1944, by \$1,832. One of the county executives for the Red Cross made the following statement:

"A few years ago, when the work and need of the Red Cross organization were not well known, only a few, from three to five, communities participated. Quotas were small and the amount could be raised easily in the larger places. The smaller places would have responded, but we did not call upon them. With the coming of the war and its accompanying demands, appeals to the smaller places met with wholehearted response. Placing responsibility upon them, through assigning quotas and naming local leaders and committees to do the work, resulted in cooperative responsibility spread out over the whole county... They more than meet all demands upon them now as a matter of course with enthusiasm... With well-organized local groups on a county-wide basis, it was easier to raise the 1944 funds, which were almost five times those of 1941, than it was to raise those of the earlier year."

There has been a remarkable response to the call for funds in connection with the infantile paralysis drives. In 1939, the county as a whole contributed about \$50 to the fund; in 1942, 2 or 3 committees raised \$146; in 1943, 6 committees raised \$293; and in 1944, 24 neighborhood and community committees raised a little more than \$1,160. The county chairman of this drive said:

"With our county organized into neighborhoods and communities, with responsible committees representing the residents of each, the county chairman of the various drives for funds and services no longer wonders what the outcome of a drive will be or how to get the work done. He knows that the entire organization will begin to function as soon as the local recognized leaders, who are familiar with the programs, are contacted, and that all quotas will be met by safe margins."

Total contributions in the county during 1943 for the Red Cross, infantile paralysis, and war chest funds amounted to approximately \$16,760.

#### Schools

War has affected the Roby schools. Migration from the community is reflected in a decrease of 16.4 percent in school enrollment between 1940-41 and 1943-44 session (table 10). In view of the call of war jobs for young men and young women, even coupled with the fact that families moving out of the community may have had more children of elementary school age than of high school age, one would have expected the percentage of reduction in high-school enrollment to have been greater than in elementary school, but such was not the case (table 10). Some parents made special efforts to keep high-school boys and girls in school regularly so they would have all the training possible before



entering the armed forces or going to war jobs. If children were needed for a few days of extra work on the farm, those in the elementary grades rather than those in the high school, were kept home.

Table 10.- Number of students enrolled, percentage change in enrollment, and number of teachers employed in Roby Consolidated School, 1940-41 and 1943-44

School	Enrollment			Number	
	Number		Percent	teachers	
	1940-41	1943-44	change	1940-41	1943-44
Roby Consolidated School:					
Elementary	360	300	-16.7	18	15
High	205	175	-14.6	4	4
All grades	565	475	-15.9	22	19
Roby Negro School:					
Elementary	15	10	-33.3	1	1
Total	580	485	-16.4	23	20

Reduction in the one-room, one-teacher Negro school enrollment in Roby between 1940-41 and 1943-44 was proportionately greater than the reduction in the Roby Consolidated School (table 10). Negro families were already moving out of the Roby community and the war merely accelerated the going. In 1930, according to reports of local people, there were about 50 Negro families in the Roby community and only about 10 families in 1944. Hereafter, discussion of schools will apply solely to the Roby Consolidated School.

The reduction of three teachers in the Roby Consolidated School between 1940-41 and 1943-44 was not quite comparable to the reduced enrollment (table 10). There was a reduction of 30 pupils in high school but no reduction in teachers; yet with a reduction of 60 pupils in elementary school, there was a reduction of three teachers. Teacher turnover has been greater during the war than formerly. A few left for the armed forces, some for better teaching positions, and others for jobs in war plants. It has been difficult to make replacements with well-trained people. This has been especially true in regard to athletics and vocational courses.

In athletics, the pastor of the Roby Methodist Church was employed to coach football and other sports during the war. This was a new experience for him. He took the work seriously and attended a summer short course in coaching. Winning teams were developed during his tenure of 2 years.

The Roby school curriculum has been broadened somewhat and emphasis has been placed upon the school's serving all people in the community. As in other parts of the country, special courses have been introduced for out-of-school youth and adults. With an average enrollment of 6 up to the spring of 1944, the farm-machinery course has attracted interest. Farmers and their sons welcome the chance to repair and, under supervision, are learning more about tractors and other machinery. High-school students may take the course but without credit. A considerable number of farm women have been reached through a course in the planning, production, conservation, and preservation of food. Additional emphasis, with a ready response from students, has been placed upon the regular high-school commercial course because of the wartime demand for trained office workers.

The majority of pupils in the Roby community attended school in the village of Roby during 1944 as in 1940 (table 11), but there was a slight shift from other consolidated schools to the Roby high school.

Table 11.- High-school and elementary-school center of specified percentage of the 51 sample families living in the Roby Community, Texas, in both 1940 and 1944

School center		: High school : Elementary school	
		: Percent	: Percent
Roby	1940	: 92.2	: 92.2
	1944	: 94.1	: 92.2
Neighborhood	1940	: 0.0	: 0.0
	1944	: .0	: .0
Other	1940	: 7.8	: 7.8
	1944	: 5.9	: 7.8
Total	1940	: 100.0	: 100.0
	1944	: 100.0	: 100.0

Participation in community activities by both school teachers and pupils has increased greatly. Teachers assist the local war agencies and community organizations in carrying forward their many programs. They serve as clerks and secretaries for Selective Service and Ration Boards and for other organizations. They take an active part in community drives for collection of scrap, sale of War Bonds and stamps, and collecting for the Red Cross and other organizations. Teachers are subject to call wherever needed. Pupils collect scrap, help to sell war stamps, carry forward activities of the Junior Red Cross, and assist in the many informational campaigns promoted in connection with the war.



During the year 1943-44, 49 boys were members of the Future Farmers of America and approximately 100 girls were members of the Future Homemakers club. Interest and enrollment in these clubs has increased during the war.

Despite rationing of tires and gasoline, a greater proportion of children in the Roby community attended school plays and programs during 1943-44 than during 1940-41 (table 12). Adults, on the other hand, attended these activities somewhat less during 1943-44. Parents, no doubt, were having to work harder and longer and had less time for recreation, but they were apparently willing for their children to continue to take part in extra-curricular school activities.

Table 12.- Regularity of attendance of children and adults from 58 sample families in Roby Community, Texas, at school plays and programs during 1943-44, and 1943-44 attendance compared with 1940-41

Item	: Children : Adults	
	: Percent	: Percent
Frequency of attendance during 1943-44:		
Regularly	: 87.8	: 62.1
Irregularly	: 4.9	: 25.8
None	: 7.3	: 12.1
Total	: 100.0	: 100.0
Attendance during 1943-44 compared with 1940-41:		
More	: 7.3	: 1.7
Same	: 92.7	: 91.4
Less	: 0.0	: 6.9
Total	: 100.0	: 100.0

Parents in the community do not take part in the local Parent-Teacher Association to any large extent. The majority of parents live in rural areas, and about three-fourths of all parents never attend Parent-Teacher Association meetings (table 13). Most active members live in the village.

Table 13.- Regularity of attendance of sample families in Roby Community, Texas, at Parent-Teacher Association during 1943-44, and 1943-44 attendance compared with 1940-41

Item	: Percent of : families
Frequency of attendance during 1943-44:	:
More than 2/3 of the time	: 12.1
1/3 to 2/3 of the time	: 3.4
Less than 1/3 of the time	: 10.3
None	: 74.2
	:
	Total : 100.0
	:
1943-44 attendance compared with 1940-41:	:
More	: 3.4
Same	: 89.7
Less	: 6.9
	:
	Total : 100.0

#### Churches

Churches in this community have felt the war. The membership of the Methodist Church in the village, for example, numbered 180 in 1940, but by 1944 it had dropped to 170, with 55 of these in the armed forces or in war plants. Decrease in attendance at church services, generally true for the entire community (table 14), has not been proportionate to the loss in population. Church attendance has been stimulated by extra efforts of church leaders, according to the opinion of the pastor. But people are pretty busy and there are fewer young folks to carry on. Epworth League was discontinued in 1942, and prayer meeting in 1943.

Conditions in other churches in the community have been similar, except that rural churches have had a more difficult time. As the majority of those who have left the Roby community since 1940 came from rural areas, country churches have lost proportionately more members. All migrants have not taken their church letters with them; many still hold membership in one of the local churches. Nevertheless, country churches had a membership of 210 in 1940 and 174 in 1943, a loss of 17.1 percent. Village churches had a membership of 735 in 1940 and 725 in 1943, a loss of 1.4 percent. The total membership of all churches in the community was 945 in 1940 and 899 in 1943, a loss of 4.9 percent. Out of a reduction of 46 members in all churches, 44 members lived in the open country.



Table 14.- Number and percentage of sample families in the Roby Community, Texas, having at least one child or one adult attend Sunday school or church service a specified proportion of regular meetings during 1943, and 1943 attendance compared with 1940

Item	Sunday school			Church service		
	Adults	Children	Adults	Children	Adults	Children
	Number : Percent	Number : Percent	Number : Percent	Number : Percent	Number : Percent	Number : Percent
Attendance during 1943:						
More than 2/3 of regular meetings	24	41.4	29	70.7	27	46.6
						68.3
1/3 to 2/3 of regular meetings	3	5.2	3	7.3	13	22.4
						24.4
Less than 1/3 of regular meetings	16	27.6	5	12.2	16	27.6
						10
None	15	25.8	4	9.8	2	3.4
						0
						0.0
Total	58	100.0	41	100.0	58	100.0
						41
						100.0
Attendance during 1943 compared with 1940:						
More	2	3.4	1	2.4	5	8.6
						1
Same	52	89.7	39	95.2	49	84.5
						39
Less	4	6.9	1	2.4	4	6.9
						1
						2.4
Total	58	100.0	41	100.0	58	100.0
						41
						100.0

Although they may not attend regularly, most citizens of Roby are churchgoing people (table 14). They express loyalty to their church even though they may not take an active part. Adults attended both church and Sunday school slightly less during 1943 than during 1940 while attendance by children was about the same.

The proportion of sample families participating in the auxiliary activities of the churches--ladies' societies, men's clubs, and young people's groups--was small (table 15). Attendance at young people's groups was greatest. Participation in all church organizations was somewhat less during 1943 than during 1940.

Table 15.- Percentage of sample families in the Roby Community, Texas, having at least one member of family attending church ladies' society, men's club, or young people's group a specified proportion of regular meetings in 1943, and 1943 attendance compared with 1940

Item	Ladies' society	Men's club	Young people's group
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Attendance during 1943:			
More than 2/3 of regular meetings	8.5	1.7	17.2
1/3 to 2/3 of regular meetings	3.4	1.7	5.2
Less than 1/3 of regular meetings	5.2	3.4	1.7
None	81.1	93.2	74.2
No information	1.7	0.0	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Attendance during 1943 compared with 1940:			
More	1.7	.0	1.7
Same	91.4	94.8	89.7
Less	5.2	5.2	6.9
No information	1.7	.0	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

#### Other Community Organizations and Activities

Although direct participation of sample families in formal organization is slight, the objectives of these organizations during wartime were usually pointed toward helping in the war and they were accepted generally by the people.

In 1940 the Lions Club had a membership of 49, 37 from the village and 12 from the open country, with an average attendance of 35. In 1944 the membership was 20, 15 from the village and 5 from the open country,



with an average attendance of 18. Attendance relative to membership has increased slightly during the war period. The club has taken an active part in most of the wartime programs.

The Business and Professional Women's Club, although not including any of the sample families in its membership, is one of the organizations in the village center with cooperation in wartime programs as one of its major activities. It has been especially active in sponsoring first-aid and nutrition classes, and in helping with war bond campaigns, Red Cross drives, and similar programs.

The Boy Scouts have an active organization at the village center, with an enrollment of some 25 members. Their attendance has varied little since the beginning of war. Obtaining and retaining qualified leaders, hard enough during peacetime, has been especially handicapped during the war.

The Agricultural Extension Service has organized a Victory Council in each neighborhood. One man and one woman in each neighborhood were designated as leaders. The main objective of these councils is to assist with war programs, especially those pertaining to agriculture, but Victory leaders are likely to accept responsibility in their neighborhoods for practically all the usual war activities--all without pay.

The vast majority, 90 percent, of sample families living in the Roby community both in 1940 and 1944 listed Roby as their movie-theater center for both years (table 16). Children in the community attend movies much more regularly than adults (table 17).

Table 16.- Movie-theater center for 51 sample families living in the Roby Community, Texas, in both 1940 and 1944

Movie-theater center		Families	
		Number	Percent
Roby	1940	46	90.2
	1944	46	90.2
Neighborhood	1940	0	0.0
	1944	0	0.0
Other	1940	3	5.9
	1944	3	5.9
Never attend	1940	2	3.9
	1944	2	3.9
Total	1940	51	100.0
	1944	51	100.0



Table 17.- Regularity of attendance of children and adults at movies during 1943, and 1943 attendance compared with 1940

Item	Children : Adults	
	Percent	Percent
Frequency of attendance during 1943:		
Regularly	80.5	34.5
Irregularly	17.1	44.8
None	2.4	20.7
Total	100.0	100.0
Attendance during 1943 compared with 1940:		
More	4.9	3.4
Same	95.1	96.6
Less	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

The reported change in attendance by sample families during 1943 compared with 1940 was slight but the true attendance picture for the Roby theater is somewhat different. In prewar years, the local theater was a liability because the younger groups of the community went to Sweetwater and Rotan for their recreation where they liked the shows better and where they could find other forms of entertainment; in 1940, there were few patrons of the movie theater in Roby. But during the war the situation has changed, partly because of rationing of tires and gasoline. By 1943 the one theater in Roby was showing to full houses. There was an apparent discrepancy between family reports with respect to their movie-going habits and the report of the local theater manager and of others; parents probably reported for themselves rather than for their children, and movie audiences in Roby are composed mostly of young people.

#### Centers for Major Services

Neighborhood country stores played a minor role in the Roby community in 1944, just as they did in 1940 (table 18). Most families in the community buy groceries and feed in the village, but for such items as clothing, hardware, and machinery, most of the people continued to go to other centers during 1944, just as they had in 1940. Sweetwater is a favorite shopping center, especially for clothing.



Table 18.- Buying center, by specified products, for designated percentage of 51 sample families living in the Roby Community, Texas, in both 1940 and 1944

Buying center		:	Groceries	:	Clothing	:	Hardware and machinery	:	Feed
		:	Percent	:	Percent	:	Percent	:	Percent
Roby	1940	:	80.4	:	33.3	:	27.4	:	39.2
	1944	:	82.3	:	29.4	:	27.4	:	41.2
Neighborhood	1940	:	2.0	:	0.0	:	0.0	:	3.9
	1944	:	2.0	:	.0	:	.0	:	3.9
Other	1940	:	17.6	:	66.7	:	47.1	:	9.8
	1944	:	15.7	:	70.6	:	47.1	:	9.8
No purchase	1940	:	0.0	:	.0	:	25.5	:	47.1
	1944	:	.0	:	.0	:	25.5	:	45.1
Total	1940	:	100.0	:	100.0	:	100.0	:	100.0
	1944	:	100.0	:	100.0	:	100.0	:	100.0

No medical doctors live in open-country neighborhoods of the Roby community and there is only one practicing physician and no clinic or hospital in the village of Roby. Nevertheless, most sample families reported Roby as their center for medical care (table 19) for both 1940 and 1944, with the exception of one family who changed from Roby to another village for such care.

Thus, shortages of tires, gasoline, and other items have not caused people in the Roby community to shift centers for major services.

Table 19.- Medical care center of 51 families living in Roby Community, Texas, in both 1940 and 1944

Medical care center		:	Families	
		:	Number	Percent
Roby	1940	:	36	70.6
	1944	:	35	68.6
Neighborhood	1940	:	0	0.0
	1944	:	0	.0
Other	1940	:	15	29.4
	1944	:	16	31.4
Total	1940	:	51	100.0
	1944	:	51	100.0



#### METHOD USED IN STUDY

In obtaining data pertaining to the Roby community, a number of methods involving various techniques were used. The history of the community and its culture were studied. Several early documents such as official records and newspapers were read. Old citizens were asked to tell about early days in the community, its development, and present conditions. Local meetings were attended and ways whereby local people meet their problems were observed. Officers and other key members of community organizations and institutions were interviewed, and finally, either the head or wife of about 10 percent of families within the community was interviewed and schedules obtained.

One of the first steps was the delineation of the community with its component neighborhoods according to established techniques. When the boundary of the community had been established with a reasonable degree of accuracy, a random sample of open-country families was selected by circling on the map every 10th open-country dwelling within the community area. There were about 360 open-country dwellings within the boundary of the Roby community as established. Thirty-six houses were circled, the families of which were interviewed. To get the proper proportion of owners and tenants in the sample, in some cases a nearby house was substituted for the one circled if it met the need for tenure adjustment.

There are about 200 families in the village of Roby; 22 were selected by taking every tenth house. Minor adjustments assured that all occupational and status classes were represented. The total of village and open-country schedules taken was 58.



SEP 4 - 1945